

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 00634 291244Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 0634

EXDIS

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, PERSONS AND QUACKENBUSH; PASS DHEW/OIH

E.O. 11652: GG

TAGS: ILO AORG PLO

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ON ILO AND WHO

REF: A) STATE 18824, B) GENEVA 263, C) GENEVA 433

1. SUMMARY. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR RONN FEELS THAT ANY ARAB INITIATIVE TO SUSPEND OR EXPEL ISRAEL FROM MEMBERSHIP IN UN AGENCIES IN GENEVA IS MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN IN WHO. IN PART BECAUSE OF THE US NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO, RONN DOES NOT THINK THE SITUATION THERE WILL BE AS SERIOUS. HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT EXPECT THE ARABS WILL AGREE TO A "PEACEFUL SCENARIO" AT THE ILO ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN JUNE. END SUMMARY.

2. AS SUGGESTED IN REF A, I CALLED ON AMBASSADOR RONN AND ASKED HIM FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE SCENARIO OUTLINED BY ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD FOR THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE IN ILO (SEE REFS B AND C). RONN FEELS THE ARABS ARE MORE LIKELY TO TAKE SERIOUS INITIATIVES IN WHO THAN IN ILO. IN WHO FOR INSTANCE, THE NEUTRAL STANCE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL (MAHLER) HAS PUT HIM AT THE MERCY OF POLITICAL MANEUVERS BY THE ARABS AND ARTICLE 7 OF THE WHO CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS. THE ARAB-SPONSORED RESOLUTION LAST YEAR REFLECTED THIS LANGUAGE AND RONN SAID THE POINT TO BE KEPT IN MIND IS
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 00634 291244Z

THAT THE ARABS ARE AWARE THAT AT ANYTIME THEY CAN TABLE AND

CARRY A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL FROM AU ISRAEL FELT WEAK IN DEFENDING ITSELF IN WHO LAST YEAR WHEN THEY REFUSED TO ACCEPT A WHO COMMISSION BECAUSE THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, EXCEPT FOR ROMANIA, DID NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. THIS YEAR, SHOULD THE ARABS MOVE FOR SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL FROM WHO AND ITS REPLACEMENT BY THE PLO, ISRAEL WILL ORGANIZE AN INTERNATIONAL PROTEST BY MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION ALL OVER THE WORLD.

3. RONN CONTRASTED THE WHO SITUATION WITH ILO, WHICH HE SAID IS HEADED BY A "POLITICAL ANIMAL" WHO KNOWS HOW TO MANEUVER AND WHERE THERE IS NO PROCEDURE FOR SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF A MEMBER COUNTRY. SINCE THE RESOLUTION OF JUNE 1974 THE ARABS HAVE SHIED AWAY FROM PROPOSING A SPECIAL COMMISSION BE SENT TO INVESTIGATE CONDITIONS IN ISRAEL AND HAVE DELIBERATELY AVOIDED USING AVAILABLE ILO FACT-FINDING AND CONCILIATION PROCEDURES; THE ARABS ALSO HAVE OPPOSED SENDING A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO ISRAEL TO REPORT ON ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTION OF 1974.

4. RONN SAID ISRAEL CONSIDERS A NON-JUDGMENTAL REPORT TO BE THE BEST APPROACH TO THE MARCH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND WAS COOPERATING WITH BLANCHARD BY SUPPLYING INFORMATION TO HIM (SEE REFS B AND C). RONN HOPES BLANCHARD ALSO WILL URGE THE GOVERNING BODY TO INITIATE THE USE OF EXISTING ILO INVESTIGATION MACHINERY BUT EVEN IF BLANCHARD DOES THIS RONN BELIEVES THAT THE ARABS AND THE GOVERNING BODY WOULD NOT RESPOND. HE SAID THE ARABS ARE (#) SHOULD THEY INITIATE

FORMAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ISRAEL, ISRAEL COULD IN TURN RAISE FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST CONDITIONS OF WORKERS IN ARAB STATES; AND THE GOI IS INDEED CONSIDERING THIS KIND OF RESPONSE.

5. RONN BELIEVES THAT BLANCHARD IS TOO OPTIMISTIC THAT THE GOVERNING BODY WILL KEEP HIS REPORT ON THE FOLLOWUP TO THE JUNE 1974 RESOLUTION TO ITSELF AND PREVENT IT FROM BEING RAISED AT THE ANNUAL ILO CONFERENCE IN JUNE. HE BELIEVES THE MILITANT ARABS HAVE SEIZED THE LEADERSHIP AND THAT EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB MODERATES WILL HAVE TO GO ALONG. RONN IS NOT SANGUINE THAT THE GENEVA TALKS WILL CONVENE SOON ENOUGH, OR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 00634 291244Z

IF THEY DO, THAT THEY WILL PRODUCE RESULTS SUFFICIENTLY CONCRETE TO DE-FUSE THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE IN THE ILO CONFERENCE IN JUNE. ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVES THE US NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO HAS SERVED TO RESTRAIN THE ARABS IN ILO, AND THAT THIS RESTRAINT MAY GIVE BLANCHARD SOME ROOM TO MANEUVER, RONN IS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THE ARABS WILL GO ALONG WITH A "PEACEFUL SCENARIO".

6. US-ILO RELATIONS -- RONN SAID EVERYONE HE TALKED TO BELIEVES THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF EVENTUAL US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO WAS REMOTE, AND THAT AFTER THE US ELECTIONS THE PLAYERS WOULD CHANGE AND THE US POLICY WOULD BE REVERSED. I TOLD RONN THAT NEITHER THE ELECTIONS NOR JOHN DUNLOP'S RESIGNATION NOR A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP IN THE AFL&CIO WOULD AFFECT THE US POSTURE; MEANY'S SUCCESSORS WERE LIKELY TO BE JUST AS HARD NOSED. RONN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD BUT THAT OTHERS WERE FINDING DIFFICULTY.DALE

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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